

**MARCH 2019**

East Rock Creek Village — 202-656-7322  
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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

### **Seasons Change and So Do We**



They say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. It's not uncommon around here to experience a last big snowstorm just as our trees prepare to bud. How many times have you started the day needing a heavy coat and then, as the sun began to shine, wished you had brought a much lighter jacket? In times of sudden transition, it certainly can be hard to plan. This truism applies to many aspects of our lives. As we grow older, it's not always clear when changes are happening and what, if any, help we need.

That's one reason I'm glad we have ERCV, a caring community of neighbors helping each other thrive. Service Members can arrange to meet with our new social worker, Barbara Scott, to discuss any worrisome issues and how to address them. And, of course, if you're a Social Member whose needs have changed, we make it easy for you to become a Service Member. Being part of ERCV makes it easier to deal with the changing weather of our lives.

We need each other to continue growing and learning. I was very glad to see so many of you at our Valentine's Day Open House. We filled our new office with great people, treats, and conversations. Our next Open House will be on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5pm, hosted by Board member Peter Kramer. Come enjoy -- and bring a friend. And please don't forget about chair yoga on Fridays and our monthly Lunch Bunch gatherings. As always, I welcome hearing your creative ideas for fun and educational things we can do together.

Wishing you sunny days and gentle breezes as we prepare to say "Goodbye" to winter and "Hello" to spring. . . *—David Mackoff*





**Would you like to help with plans** for an ERCV social and fundraising event in September? This "Fall Frolic" will be similar to our much-enjoyed Swing into Spring of recent years, with food donated by local restaurants, music, and door prizes. Long-time ERCV volunteer Doris Spruell has agreed to chair this event – **but only if a co-chair is identified to share the work. The ERCV Board will be deciding on March 13 whether or not to proceed with plans.** Let us know if you want to work with Doris to put on a great party for the Village! Email [info@eastrockcreekvillage.org](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org) or call us at 202-656-7322 to let us know.



## **SPOTLIGHT: Gratitude for ERCV**

I joined ERCV to be part of my community and help my neighbors. As I trained volunteers, I never imagined I would soon benefit from their services. A month after I retired, I broke my hip. Initially, I had very limited mobility and was confined to the first floor of my house. Barbara Scott, ERCV social worker, called several times to check in. She provided comfort and reassurance that I was not alone. It was extremely helpful.

I could not have remained in my home without the help of ERCV Volunteers and my neighbor, Barbara Gerlach. They shoveled snow, drove me to appointments, ran errands, changed overhead light bulbs, and helped me with computer issues. I am back on my feet now and no longer require as much help. ERCV Service membership is the insurance policy I hoped not to use and remain grateful for having. –*Rima Shaffer*



## **ERCV PORTRAITS - Meet Carl Bergman**



Carl Bergman is one of those persons who never slows down. Originally from Atlanta, he came here for graduate school in 1966 at American University. Carl was a computer expert before most people knew what a computer was. He had a clear vision of technology's evolution. With great foresight and chutzpah, he's achieved incredible results regarding information sharing, auditing, and public accountability.

As a graduate student in 1968, he was hired by John Hechinger, Chairman of the then-new DC City Council. After the 1968 riots, he worked on police use of deadly force. Also, when a DC insurance company canceled more than 10,000 policies, Carl worked to make that illegal. Carl worked extensively on Metro's establishment, writing policies for Metro parking and reviewing all DC station designs and names.

After leaving the Council, he initiated the first-ever class action assessment suit against the District. Property taxes were being secretly raised from 55 to 60% of property value, but owners were told it was due to increased worth.

In 1974, Carl ran for City Council at large. He lost, but did finish ahead of Marion Barry in Ward Three! As a staffer for Councilmember Dave Clark, he drafted DC's MLK's Birthday Day law, before it became a federal holiday. In 1975, he drafted DC's Freedom of Information Act.

As Deputy DC Auditor, Carl conducted the first audit of DC's foster child tracking system and helped institute a new system. Prior to this, case workers were losing track of children! Carl also audited Forest Haven, at that time DC's home for those with intellectual disability. He found the CFO was stealing patients' SSI funds. This played a role in closing the facility.

During an audit of tax assessments of large downtown office buildings, Carl discovered that everyone west of 14<sup>th</sup> Street hadn't been reassessed in many years, including the *Washington Post*. The *Post* ran an editorial disputing the audit, but later ran a news story confirming it was indeed true!

Since 1980, Carl's worked as a computer consultant specializing in web sites, requirements analysis and electronic health records. More recently, he was a Special Assistant to Councilmember David Grosso, who became interested in DC oral histories, and assigned Carl to work on this. Thus was born the [DC Oral History Consortium](#).

Carl is a radio ham, W3HBK, holding the FCC's highest-grade license. He's locally active as Vice President of the Shepherd Park Citizens Association. Recently, he chaired the Marvin Caplan Park dedication. At Tifereth Israel Congregation, he co-established its long-term building maintenance plan and fund. He's President of the Shepherd Park Historical Society. He's active in the DC Friends of the Archives, which works to preserve official DC records.

Carl and his wife Margie have two married daughters and are expecting their first grandchild this spring. If you don't already know him, you should! He's a wonderful example of how one can stay active and productive. We're fortunate to have him as a community member!

*(Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Brenda Mejia for this interview!)*



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR MARCH EVENTS --

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, 3:00-4:00 pm

### CHAIR YOGA FOR SENIORS

- **Location:** Juanita Thornton/Shepherd Park Library, Conference Rm. 2 upstairs. There is an elevator to the second floor. Limited parking at the library – 7420 Georgia Ave. NW – and metered street parking on Georgia Ave. as well as free 2-hour parking on the side streets.
- A gentle movement class that can be enjoyed by anyone; no experience is needed. Wear comfortable clothes. All are welcome! Reservations are not required, but if you contact us ([info@eastrockcreekvillage.org](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org) or 202-656-7322) we will schedule you for email or text reminders & notice of cancellations in case of bad weather.

Saturday, March 16, 3:00-5:00 pm

### ERCV OPEN HOUSE – ALL ARE WELCOME!

- At the home of an ERCV Board member, 6706 5<sup>th</sup> St. NW, near the corner of Aspen St.
- Join us for conversation and light refreshments, and learn more about how to enhance your quality of life, or that of your loved one or neighbor. All are welcome – come and bring your neighbor! Or **let us know of potential members you would like us to invite!**
- For more information, contact ERCV at 202-656-7322 or [info@eastrockcreekvillage.org](mailto:info@eastrockcreekvillage.org).



## COMMUNITY EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **March, all month: Tax Preparation Assistance** – AARP tax aides provide free in-person tax preparation through April 15. AARP membership not required. Locations/times below. For more information, including what to take with you, call 888-687-2277 or click [here](#). **Chevy Chase Community Center**, 5601 Conn. Ave. NW – Tues. & Wed. 1-5 pm; **Emery Recreation Center**, 5701 Ga. Ave. NW – Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-2 pm.
- **Tues., March 5, 6:30 pm: Author Talk (Women's History Month)** – At Shepherd Park Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Friends of Shepherd Park Library presents Dara Carr of Mount Rainier, MD., discussing and signing her mystery novel *Angela Cray Gets Real*, a hilarious mystery about an unconventional detective.
- **Sat., Mar. 16, 1:00 pm: Game On** – At Tenley-Friendship Library, 4450 Wisc. Ave. NW. All ages welcome! Monthly event; view list of games [here](#). For more information call 202-727-1488.

-- Our thanks to ERCV volunteer Rosalind Palmer for compiling events for the calendar.